



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: March 5, 2024
Contact: Will Parrish
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2024-162- / J.6

ITEM TITLE: Deliberation and possible action to authorize the potential site design for Buda Train Depot, proposed to be relocated to Downtown Buda (Assistant Director of Development Services Will Parrish) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Staff has developed two possible site designs for the relocation of the Buda Train Depot. At the regularly scheduled Nov. 8 City Council Meeting, Council gave direction for Staff to work with the current owner who is donating the structure to the City and proposed locating the Depot in the "Greenbelt" near the gazebo.

Staff has prepared the attached concepts as potential options for Council to consider. The primary distance between the two concepts is the separation between the Depot and the Railroad Easement.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Buda Train Depot was closed in 1961 and was sold several times. The current owners purchased the structure where it is located on in the early 1990's, and believe that it had been there for around 10 years. It is not identified in the Historic Resource Survey, indicating that it was not located downtown at the time of the 1992 survey.

According to the book "People and Places In and Around Historic Buda", which contains clippings from the Hays County Free Press, the Depot's original location was in "The Reservation", colloquially referred to as the "Greenbelt". Based on the information provided, it appears that the former library/current Destination Services Building was constructed on the original Depot location.

3. ANALYSIS

The first concept, seen in Exhibit A, shows the Depot generally backed up as close to the Rail Road Easement as possible, while in Exhibit B the Depot is pushed approximately 30 feet away from the Easement, and is located closer to Main Street.

The Concept in Exhibit A provides more room for a "plaza" in front of the Depot, but limits the ability to construct any improvements at the rear of the depot, such as drive isles.

The Concept in Exhibit B limits the amount of space for a future "plaza", but provides more space at the rear of the Depot for any future desired improvements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

These concepts have not been evaluated for cost at this time.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

CHARMING DOWNTOWN - QUAIN AND LIVELY

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Develop both sides of Main Street / Have more reasons for residents to go to Buda Downtown

7. PROS AND CONS

Concept A :

Pros - Potential for a true "plaza" along main street with space for community gatherings which could be a focal point for holiday and community celebrations.

Cons - Limits space for possible future improvements behind the Depot.

Concept B:

Pros - Space at the rear of the Depot is provided for future improvements which are not currently contemplated at this time.

Cons - Limits the ability of the "Plaza" space to function as a community focal point where citizens can gather and celebrate special events and holidays.

8. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking direction from City Council on their desired concept.

Attachments:

[Depot Exhibits.pdf](#)